
BCCC Matters! December 2019

1 message

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**BCCC Matters!**

December 2019

There is much to celebrate...

**View from the Chair**

This from James...

The end of a great year for the club and the end of my time as chair - a review from the chair!

Those at the AGM who had the patience to sit through [my speech](#) will know we've had a busy year - lots of courses, trips, socials, together with improvements to our infrastructure with kitted out changing rooms, a gym and new boats. On the admin side we've got new accounting software, online payments and booking, online membership and a full review of our policies and governance, leading to the club being awarded Clubmark accreditation. All in all I think our 40th year has been a great one.

This year hasn't gone unnoticed - we received the southern region club of the year award, Liz Murnaghan was awarded volunteer of the year and Brian Biffin won an award for his video - [Pup on a SUP](#). Brain Gandy also received a [British Canoeing award](#) for his work supporting the club and wider.

None of this would be possible without the tireless support of our volunteers and coaches, and a special thank you to the committee for the hard yards they do just to make the club work.

Bill has been elected Chair and he'll continue to develop the club. My final ask is that if you have ideas, and the capacity to support the club please get in touch with Bill. We can only do what we do with your support and more hands make light work.

Thanks all, have a good festive season and hopefully see you on the water soon.



2019 B3C Awards

Lots of awards given out at the AGM in November. [Here is a complete list.](#)



Trips

From canals to rivers, lochs and the sea, there are so many places you can paddle when you have completed your Paddle Discover and Explore Award.

Our members have not only paddled further afield on the Basingstoke Canal up to Greywell tunnel, they've paddled on the River Thames, a weekend paddle on the Gower and even paddled up to watch the annual Bramble Bank cricket match in the middle of the Solent. This sandbank near Cowes becomes visible once a year at the lowest tide.

Reflection of the year from Rick Covell [here](#) and the Sep - Dec 2019 Touring Trips [report](#).

White water kayaking is a different experience our members take part in on the glorious Symonds Yat and the River Barle. There are a few upcoming trips and if you would like to try white water, please contact [Paul Jeffs](#) in plenty of time of the event so that appropriate level of leaders are in place. Take a look at our Whitewater trip report [here](#).

Subscribe to the [B3C calendar](#) to keep up to date with trip events.

Upcoming trips

Whitewater Trips - Contact [Paul Jeffs](#)

- 14/15 December - Dartmoor weekend - grade 2 and 2(3) rivers - Dart, Walkham, Teign
 - Sunday 5 January - Barle New Year day trip - an ideal follow-on trip for paddlers after the Yat, Guildford or Shepperton
 - 11/12 January - Usk weekend - choice of our favourite grade 2 and 2(3) sections on this super river
 - Sunday 9 February - Welsh Rivers... more details soon
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Christmas Paddles

There will be a Christmas Eve paddle - Meet at 9:30 am - All welcome.

Meet at 10:00 am on Boxing Day to work out the Christmas Pudding. Bacon butties thereafter with Bill Hansell on the grill assisted by Debbie Carpenter. Any boat you are competent to paddle, any distance, any festive dress, any weather and despite any Christmas faux pas you may have committed at any Christmas party - in other words - all welcome.



Hare 'n' Hounds

Saturday 21st December saw the **Festive Hare and Hounds**. Some people donned their Santa hats and had a good fistice time on the water.

Choose a boat or SUP and decide on a 2, 4 or 6 mile course (9.45 am start time for anyone doing 2 miles). It's open to everyone and in any boat (or SUP). The emphasis is on fun rather than hard racing but you can take it as seriously as you like. Any ability (so long as you are an on-the-water member), any boat (so long as you are signed-off, if using

a Club boat).

In November Hare and Hounds, 6 Touring / Sea Kayaks took part in addition to an open canoe and racing boats. If you haven't done it before, email [Tony Gallagher](#) for further details or to agree an appropriate start time. Your handicap means that (in theory), everyone finishes at 11:00am.



Racing News

3 club members took part in the 20 miles 12 portages Ross Warland Memorial Challenge on 24 November 2019. It was Zoe Griffiths' and Graeme Harding's first Ross Warland Challenge. Both completed the challenge in 4:11:39 and 3:36:39 respectively, Rob Ames beat his previous time by 9 minutes finishing in 3:40:30. Well done all!

Results [here](#).

Volunteering

The **Boat Repair and Maintenance Group** led by John Rickett meet regularly. It is quite satisfying rubbing and sanding boats down and restoring the boats. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with [John](#).

Volunteering is very rewarding. You get to meet new people and develop new skills. If you would like to get involved with the Club, for example involved in producing the newsletter or train to be a [Paddlesport Instructor](#) or be a Paddlesport Activity Leader or have an idea you'd like to explore, do drop a line to [Bill Hansell](#).

Peer Paddles Marathon Racing

If you are looking for a group to train with, there are groups who train mainly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. It is not coach-led. If you'd like to join these groups, please contact [Rob Ames](#) or [Tina Looi](#).

Touring

If you're into gentle touring paddling along the Basingstoke Canal and have a Tuesday Morning (9.30 to 12) or a Saturday (12 to 4) free, come and join a group for a peer paddle. We generally paddle all year round, unless the ice gets too thick or in my case, it's raining. We paddle in either direction as the whim takes us. We could be ice breaking in winter, bird watching, litter picking, saying 'Hello' to people on the tow path, to name a few fun things. Sometimes we may go to another location on the canal for a change. You can contact me, [Ray Rasmussen](#) and let me know when you might be coming.

Trips and More...

See the [Website](#) for the latest trips on offer.



Membership Database

From Bill Hansell...

Our online [membership management system](#) allows members to manage their subscriptions and information required for the safe and efficient management of the club.



From our local friends at Blackwater Valley Canoe Club...They have a very big calendar of events...

We just wanted to give you a quick update on our programme, which can also be found on our website [calendar](#)



Checkout our [calendar](#) on our website. Did you know you can subscribe to the B3C calendar? Just click on the Subscribe button at the [B3C Calendar page](#) to show B3C events in your own calendar.

Got an event that's not on the calendar? Contact [Bill Hansell](#) with the details and we'll make sure it's put on there.



Club Kit

There's no excuse not to be blinged up to the eyeballs with B3C branded kit. It's really good stuff and the editor highly recommends the B3C bobble hats. Here's the link to our supplier [Granite Sports](#).



Your chance to contribute to the Newsletter.

Have you got something of general interest to the B3C circulation? A trip, race or competition report? Something you've been up to in a boat? Some good pictures of our paddlers or waterways? An event you think would be good to attend? [Let us know](#) and we'll get something in the monthly newsletter.



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